

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to enter amendments made during prosecution of the International application, and to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 8-11, 14-16, 20, and 22-24.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Marked-up Copy".

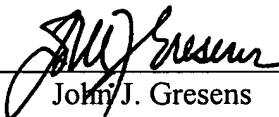
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: 11 December 2001

By 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG:hjh

10018008-121101

MARKED-UP COPY

3. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that, the wall of the case being formed by leaves and/or flaps of the blank, the precut frangible portions are cut along a line which is open with respect to the edge of the corresponding leaf and/or flap.
4. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the wall opposite the first wall is secured to the bottom wall (3, 86) or to a flap (24, 64, 93) connected to the bottom wall, via at least one precut frangible portion (33, 92) that can be detached simply by pulling and/or one or more spots of adhesive that can be unstuck manually simply by pulling.
8. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 5 to 7,] claim 5, characterized in that the precut frangible portions (28', 29'; 35, 37) are situated on the same side as the first leaf (2) and in that each of the said side flaps (17', 18'; 17", 18") of the second leaf (3) comprises at least one additional precut frangible portion (36, 38; 41, 42).
9. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the fourth join line (9, 85) is in the form of a cap astride the fold line (12) between the first wall and the top wall of the case.

10. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the first wall and the opposite wall are associated with the hollowed-out part of the blank allowing a user to perform the tearing-off.

11. The case as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that at least one pre-cut joint line forms a perforated line exhibiting cut portions of length D1 separated each from the next by attachment points of length D2, at least one of the length D1 and D2 varying along said perforated line.

14. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 11 to 13,] claim 11, characterized in that the perforated line has a first region with cut portions of a first length D1 said to be a long length, so that the cut can be begun easily and a high tearing speed can be achieved, followed by a second region of length D1', shorter than D1, so as to obtain greater resistance to tearing.

15. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 11 to 14,] claim 11, characterized in that the perforated line has a first region with tear points of a first length D2 said to be a short length, so that the cut can be begun easily and a high tear speed can be achieved, followed by a second region of length D2', longer than D2, so as to obtain greater resistance to tearing.

16. The case as claimed in [any one of claims 11 to 15,] claim 11, characterized in that the perforated line comprises a third region having cut portions of a length D1" longer than D1'; and/or tear points of length D2" shorter than D2', so as to once again reduce the resistance to tearing.

20. The blank as claimed in [any one of claims 17 to 19,] claim 17, characterized in that the fourth leaf (5; 66; 91) or the end flap of the second leaf comprise at least one precut frangible portion (33; 92).

22. The blank as claims in [either one of] claim[s] 20 [or 21], characterized in that the precut frangible portions (28', 29'; 35, 37) lie on the same side as the first leaf (2) and in that each of said side flaps (17', 18'; 17", 18") of the second leaf (3) comprises at least one additional precut frangible portion (36, 38; 41, 42).

23. The blank as claimed in [any one of claims 17 to 23,] claim 17, characterized in that the fourth join line (15, 18) is in the form of a cap astride the fold line between the first leaf and the adjacent panel.

24. The blank as claimed in [any one of claims 17 to 23,] claim 17, characterized in that the precut frangible portion (33, 92) of the fourth leaf (5, 91) and the precut fourth join line (15, 85) are each respectively associated with the hollowed-out part (16, 34) in the blank allowing grasping so that a user can perform tearing.